

Board of Supervisors and LACDMH Honor Nurses



Approximately 100 Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) nurses, staff and dignitaries attended the LACDMH Spring Gala and Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, to celebrate achievement in the nursing profession.

Presented by the LACDMH Nursing Professional Concerns Committee (NPCC), the luncheon and awards ceremony recognized many outstanding nurses, including Shirley Garcia, R.N., from Harbor UCLA Outpatient Psychiatric Program, who was named *Outstanding Nurse of the Year*. A 28-year veteran at Harbor UCLA, Shirley is part of the Multi-Disciplinary team. Her advice to current and future nurses is: "The key to finding joy and confidence in nursing is a desire to bring joy to others' lives."

Chris Collins, RN, Chair, LACDMH NPCC, hosted the program and introduced LACDMH Medical Director Rod Shaner, M.D., who spoke to the crowd about two important initiatives for the department this year. The first is Whole Person Care (WPC),

which combines mental health, physical health, substance use treatment and use of social determinants in providing for the best outcomes. The second is Transforming Clinical Practice Initiatives (TCPI), designed to help clinicians achieve large-scale health transformation. The initiative is one part of a strategy advanced by the Affordable Care Act to strengthen the quality of patient care and spend health care dollars more wisely. It aligns with the criteria for innovative models set forth in the Affordable Care Act:

- Promoting broad payment and practice reform in primary care and specialty care,
- Promoting care coordination between providers of services and suppliers,
- Establishing community-based health teams to support chronic care management, and
- Promoting improved quality and reduced cost by developing a collaborative of institutions that support practice transformation.



Helena Ditko, L.C.S.W., Office of Consumer and Family Affairs, then made a presentation on the nurse's role in enhancing family inclusion in treatment, highlighting the advantages of including family in treatment. Helena reviewed a script that might be used if a client refuses to give consent for staff to include family in treatment.

Dr. Shaner then kicked off the recognition of nominees, while Doris Benosa, RN, MSN, Nursing Affairs, gave out certificates.

Nominees included:

- Alma Baray, RN, Long Beach MHC
- Rayme Brock, RN, South Bay MHC
- Maria Chavez, RN, Roybal FSP Program
- Patricia Daughtrey, RN, Compton Family MHC
- Eugenia Ditu, RN, Antelope Valley MHC
- Etna Gonzalez, RN, South Bay Wellness
- Terri Macaluso-Scott, RN, Downtown MHC
- Francis Mullnix, RN, EOB-Long Beach MET
- Irene Obanor, RN, Arcadia MHC
- Mildred Shrubb, RN, NP, Rio Hondo MHC
- Michael Wand, RN, PMRT SA 4



An early morning reception honored Garcia and other nominees at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. The nurses were presented with scrolls from the L.A. County Board of Supervisors later, during the weekly BOS meeting. Nurses from various departments all over the county were recognized for their dedicated efforts and contributions.

Thanks go out to the Nursing Professional Concerns Committee (NPCC) Planning Team of Chris Collins, Doris Benosa, Mary Ann O'Donnell, and Rebecca "Mabek" Yumul.



Doris Benosa, Shirley Garcia, Mary Ann O'Donnell, Robin Kay, and Cecilia Gallerito



*Doris Benosa and
Chris Collins presents
Dr. Shaner.*

*Dr. Shaner presents
awards to nurses.*



Alma Baray, RN



Rayme Brock, RN



Maria Chavez, RN





*Patricia "Nurse Pat"
Daughtrey, RN*



Etna Gonzalez, RN



Terri Macaluso-Scott, RN

Francis Mullnix, RN



Irene Obanor, RN



Michael Wand, RN





Dr. Shaner acknowledging the County scroll for Shirley Gorospe Garcia, BSN, RN

2016 Outstanding Nurse

*Shirley Gorospe Garcia,
BSN, RN*



Not pictured:

*Eugenia Ditu, RN
Mildred Shrubbs, RN*

